



Marbella, February 2026

NEWSLETTER



A hibernating hedgehog! This is the first time we've found one in the Las Golondrinas dune.

While carrying out conservation work in the Las Golondrinas dune, we came across this very special scene: a hibernating hedgehog, perfectly camouflaged by the dry vegetation.

This is a reminder that dunes are not just heaps of sand, but are home to wildlife that depends on our respect and careful attention during any conservation work. That's why all our work is carried out with the utmost attention and care.

We will continue working to conserve these unique spaces and everything that lives in them.



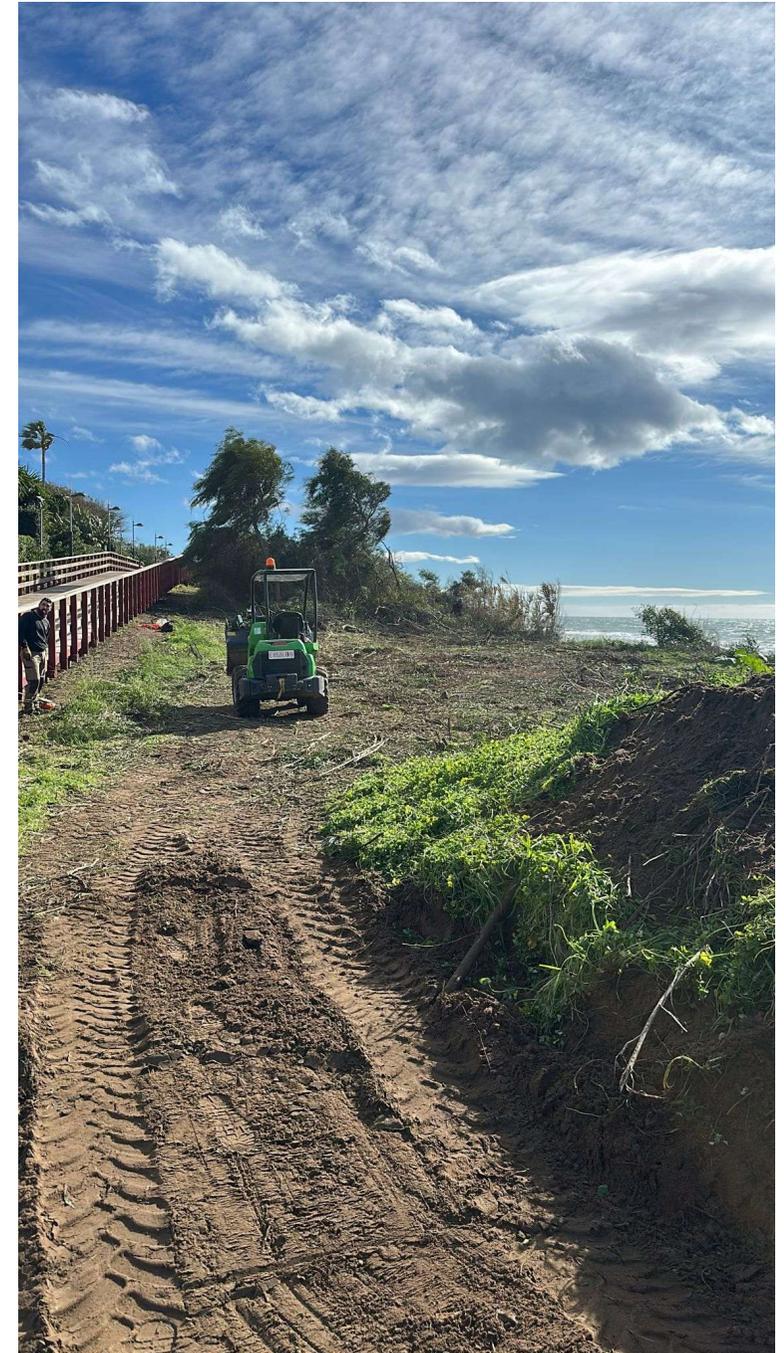
COMPLETED: The First Phase of the Las Golondrinas Dune Rehabilitation Project

Over the past few weeks, work has been carried out to remove trunks and branches of the False Mimosa (*Acacia saligna/salicina*), an FIS (Foreign invasive species) that was significantly impacting the Las Golondrinas dune system.)

Results of this first phase:
More than 24,500 kg of plant debris were removed, reducing the pressure from invasive species and improving the conditions of the dune environment.

This work has prepared the ground to encourage the natural recovery of the system and establish the groundwork for the second phase of the project, which will begin in a few weeks time, once the rains have stopped. We will then, remove the False Mimosa stumps completely.

At ProDunas Marbella we continue working for the conservation and restoration of the dune ecosystems on the Marbella coast.



The recent storms, and especially Storms Leonardo and Marta, have caused a significant loss of sand from Marbella's beaches, reducing their width by up to 10 meters in some sections.

According to initial municipal assessments, areas such as Artola-Cabopino and all the dune environments east of the municipality have suffered severe erosion, with drops of several meters in some places. In San Pedro, the damage has been particularly serious, even affecting the sewage system, with exposed pipes and safety features.

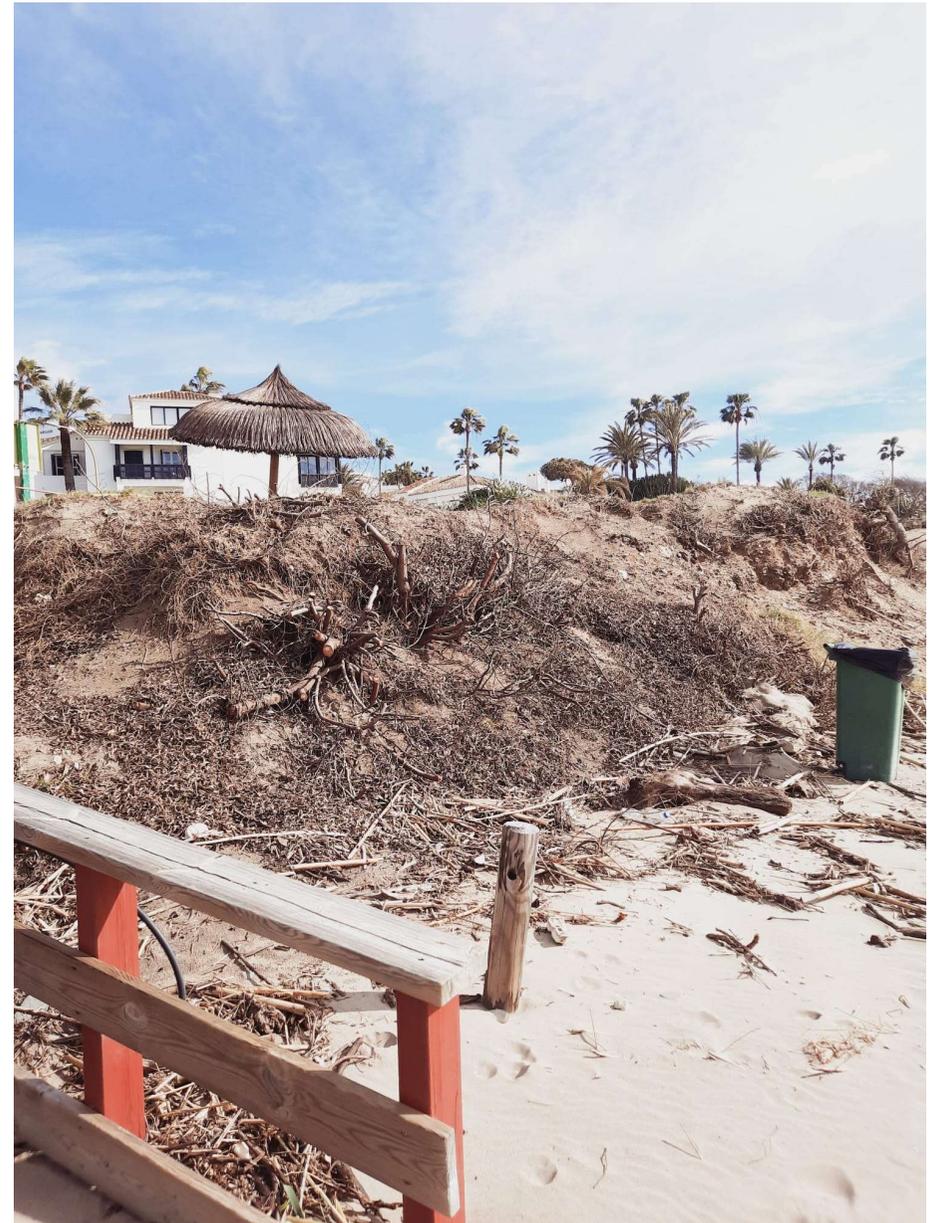
Beaches and dune ecosystems are the first line of natural defense against storms. When they degrade or lose volume, the impact of each new storm is greater, both for the natural environment and for infrastructure and public safety.

From ProDunas Marbella, we remind you of the importance of:

- Respecting dune systems and designated access points;
- Not indiscriminately removing plant species (they are key to the natural recovery of dunes and beaches); and
- Choosing nature-based solutions for coastal protection.

We will continue to monitor the evolution of the beaches and work to raise awareness and promote the conservation of the Marbella coastline, which has required constant protection from the increasingly extreme weather events for over 20 years.

The beach is not just for leisure: it is about protection, biodiversity, and the future.



MULTIFUNCTIONAL ARTIFICIAL REEF PROJECT

At ProDunas Marbella, we firmly believe in the necessity to install multifunctional artificial reefs just offshore, especially in the stretches of coastline that have been hardest hit by the latest storms, like the La Víbora Este and Las Golondrinas dunes, and the Artola Dunes Natural Monument.

We have been promoting this initiative since 2017 in an attempt to protect the coastline, especially where the dunes are at their most vulnerable, thus reducing the negative effects of increasingly frequent and destructive storms.

Without dunes, there are no beaches. Without beaches, there is no tourism.

Dunes are the main natural sand reservoir for beaches. They also protect the hinterland, which was proven, over and over again, during the winters from 2016 to 2021 and again during the recent storms that have come, one after the other, this year.

Currently, large quantities of clean sand that were washed off the beach now lie on the seabed just a few meters offshore. ProDunas' position is clear: that sand should be returned to the beach. Ecologically speaking, there are no structured marine ecosystems in the surf zone, so this action would not destroy any marine habitats.

The situation is exacerbated by high tides reaching the base of the dunes daily, continuously eroding them.

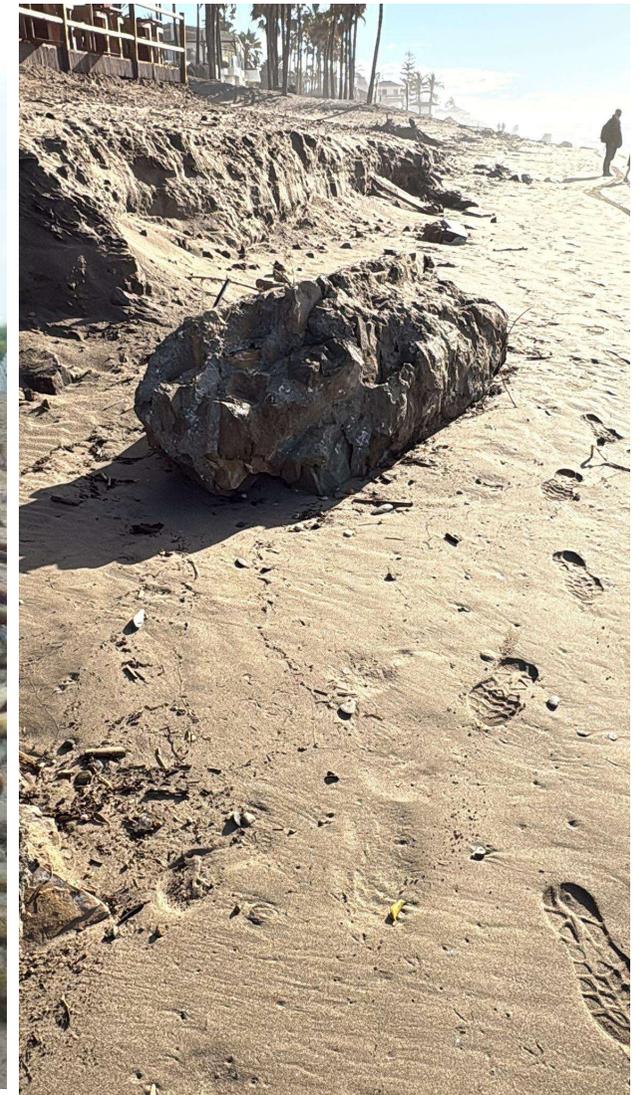
Given this scenario, ProDunas proposes a solution based on proven ecological criteria: the installation of multifunctional artificial reefs, "soft" structures that allow for a symbiosis between sea and land, invisible from the beach so there is no visual impact nor any alteration of marine currents.

These reefs break the force of the waves, protect the dunes, and promote the creation of new marine ecosystems. The Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, in coordination with other competent State entities and Administrations, has invited us to contribute information that will help improve the definition and prioritization of measures to be discussed in the next round of meetings for their possible development and integration into the National Restoration Plan.

We continue working to ensure that this initiative becomes part of the future of the Costa del Sol coastline.



MULTIFUNCTIONAL ARTIFICIAL REEF PROJECT



FIRST TALK AT IES CILNIANA AND FIRST CONTACTS WITH DUNE ECOSYSTEMS



We have taken the first step with the students of IES Cilniana. Patricia, a biologist from ProDunas Marbella, gave two talks in which she explained clearly and accessibly what the dune system is, its flora and fauna, and the importance of conserving these fragile spaces.

These talks serve as preparation for the visit to the dunes that we have already made with the students, so that they can better understand the environment they are going to explore in the field. We continue to work for environmental education and the conservation of our coastline.



Después de casi un mes de lluvia, hoy por fin hemos vuelto a la duna

La jornada de voluntariado en la **Duna Calahonda** ha sido intensa: erradicando rebrotes de cañas, recolocando estacas caídas tras los últimos temporales y controlando la proliferación de Margarita africana, que sigue avanzando si no se actúa a tiempo.

Dos horas de trabajo constante, de equipo, de manos en la arena... y que han sabido a gloria. Volver al terreno, recuperar el ritmo y ver cómo, poco a poco, el ecosistema respira mejor, compensa cualquier esfuerzo.

Gracias a todos los voluntarios que habéis participado hoy. La conservación dunar se construye así: paso a paso, estaca a estaca.



The Bahía Marbella Secondary School students came back enthusiastically to the Dunes

They were so eager to get back, and they worked so hard!

At about 10:00 a.m., we began the eradication activity with them. We concentrated on eliminating FIS (Foreign Invasive Species) in the coastal environment.

We worked primarily on the African Daisy (*Arctotheca calendula*), which is all over this area, but we also grubbed out Giant Reed, some Agave, as well as Castor Bean plants and False Mimosa shoots.

This joint effort resulted in approximately 150 kg of unwanted plant material being removed, thus opening up space for native dune flora to flourish.

As a final treat, we set up the telescope for birdwatching. The children were able to observe the many cormorants perched on the old Torre del Cable tower, as well as other seabirds very often present on our coastline. This helped them understand that conserving the dunes means also protecting everything that lives here..

We keep expanding our environmental education program as well as our hands-on work out in the dunes.

Learning by doing.



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